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Examiner: John C. Hong
Group Art Unit: 3726

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-18 and 23-41 were pending in this case. In the instant action, the Examiner has withdrawn claims 1-18, 38 and 40-41 from consideration, allowed claims 23-36 and rejected claims 37 and 39 under 35 USC § 102. The rejections are respectfully traversed. The Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's determination that claims 23-36 are allowed.

In this response, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-18 and 37-41 without prejudice and added new claims 42-45 which depend from allowed claims 23 and 32, so these claims should be allowable as well. Should any deficiencies exist in the Applicant's response, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned for a telephone conversation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 37 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ponts (U.S. Patent No. 2,705,982). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 37 and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice herein and this rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's determination that claims 23-36 are allowed. New claims 42-45 which depend from these allowed claims are therefore allowable as well.

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Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowability is requested. Applicant requests an Advisory Action be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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